

The Van Wagoner House
891 Ringwood Avenue
Haskell, Passaic County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Van Wagoner House
891 Ringwood Avenue
Haskell, Passaic County, New Jersey

Owner: Giuseppe Venezia Estate

Date of Erection: 1776 (?)

Architect:

Builder: Cornelius (?) Van Wagoner

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: One and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - granite and
fieldstone

Exterior walls - granite
and fieldstone with frame
gable ends on main unit,
frame wing of later date

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch with peak
gable on main portion

Historical Data:

This section of the state was opened up early in the eighteenth century. From 1682 to 1702 Wanaque Valley was part of New Barbadoes Township, Essex County, and after that date it became part of Passaic. A survey made by William Roome in the nineteenth century shows that the land upon which this house stands was returned to Joseph Kirkbride at Perth Amboy on May 13, 1718; this was for a tract of six hundred and twenty-five acres.

The house stands on the west side of the road running from Pompton to Ringwood. The discovery of iron ore in the Ringwood vicinity in the early eighteenth century was undoubtedly the reason why this section was opened up so early. We do not know exactly how the property came into the possession of the Van Wagoners but a deed of February 1, 1781 in Bergen County (Deeds R-283) between Members of the Van Wagoner family refers to an earlier deed of Joseph Kirkbride bearing the date July 17, 1725. It is logical to assume that he sold to the first Van Wagoner. Locally the house is known as the 1776 house. We have accepted that as the approximate date of erection. In the Surrogate's office in Passaic County there is the will (A1-102) of Cornelius Van Wagoner made March 4, 1840; this Cornelius was probably the son of the first Van Wagoner. The heirs of Cornelius deeded the part with the house to Adrian Van Wagoner on June 24, 1854 (Deeds U-353). Adrian Van Wagoner sold to Elizabeth Rogers in 1857 (Deeds B2-568); from Elizabeth Rogers the property passed to William McCarty (Deeds U2-240) in 1865. There are eight transfers recorded between that date and August 23, 1915 when William Muller sold to Giuseppe Venezia. The heirs of his estate are the present owners.

The first of the Van Wagoner or Garritson family came from Wageningen, an ancient town in Holland near the Rhine; he was Gorrit Gerritsen. He and his wife Annetze Hermansee and a son Gorrit arrived at New Amsterdam on December 23, 1660. He resided at Communipaw where he died October 4, 1696. One of his sons was named Hermanus after his mother's family. He moved to Aquackanonck (now Passaic). One of his children was a Cornelius and from his father's will he received the "farm at Wenachke on which he was living in 1752". This Cornelius is said to have died before 1768. There is a probability that this farm is the one on which the house was built. Since Cornelius was a common family name we have assumed that the builder was a Cornelius.

Bibliography:

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Philadelphia, Everts and Peck, 1882

Nelson, W. History of the City of Paterson in the County of Passaic, New Jersey Paterson, The Press Printing and Publishing Company, 1901

Winfield, Charles H. History of the County of Hudson, New Jersey New York, Kenard and Hay, 1874 (Contains genealogy of the Van Wagoner family)

A search of Passaic County court records
by Wallace Dunlop, Bergen County Office

Walter E. Pitt
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

DW 1/4/41